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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shinichi MITANI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3747

Application No.: 10/656,734

Examiner: A. Dolinar

Filed: September 8, 2003

Docket No.: 116488

For: STARTING CONTROL SYSTEM OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE AND  
STARTING CONTROL METHOD THEREOF

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

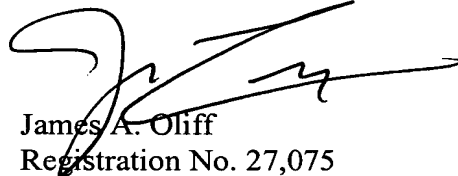
In reply to the October 20, 2004 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, Figures 1-4, with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 13 read on elected Species I, and that at least claims 1 and 13 are generic to all species.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species since at least a portion of each species is classified in the same class and sub classes (e.g., 123/179.1+). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions"

(emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JOC/tea

Date: November 19, 2004

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